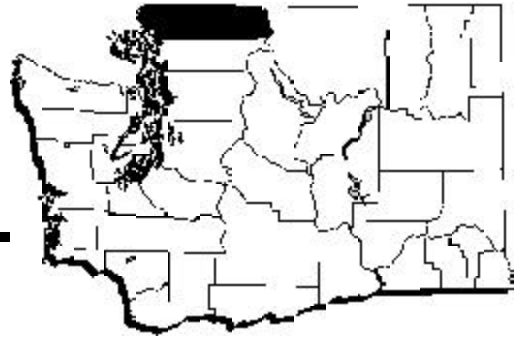


Whatcom County

WIC Facts 2003



% infants born
served by WIC

44.1%

WIC food dollar
contribution to
local economy

\$2,069,482

WIC foods purchased

132,013 gallons of milk

80,235 boxes of cereal

56,418 cartons of eggs



WIC serves

Total women and children served ----- 6,075

Infants and young children ----- 4,330

Pregnant, breastfeeding, and
postpartum women ----- 1,745

Diverse families

Caucasian ----- 60.8%

Hispanic ----- 23.4%

African American/Black ----- 1.7%

Asian/Pacific Islander ----- 3.2%

Native American/American Indian ----- 10.9%

Working families

Percent of WIC households with at least one
working family member ----- 66%

Families living in poverty

Percent of WIC households with income at or below
the federal poverty level¹ ----- 68%
(less than \$1,336 per month for a family of 3)

WIC attracts families to preventive health services

Over 30,918 times last year, WIC staff discussed health-related services with families and provided the information and support needed to access them successfully.

WIC agencies and sites

Lummi Tribal Health Clinic
Bellingham

Nooksack Tribal Clinic
Everson

SeaMar Community Health Centers
Bellingham

Whatcom County Health Department
Bellingham

Statewide WIC Facts

- WIC served 48.2% of all infants born in Washington state
- WIC served 260,000 women and children
WIC provides nutritious foods, nutrition education, referrals and breastfeeding information.
- WIC contributed \$94.5 million to local economies
- WIC attracted families to preventive health services
In 2003, more than 19,400 calls to the Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies statewide referral line were from families calling for WIC.² With this one call, they got help finding WIC and also received information about other preventive health services.
- WIC was a gateway to health-related services
Over 1.3 million times last year, WIC staff discussed these services with families and provided the information and support needed to access them successfully.
- WIC breastfeeding rate reached 83.2%³
Breastfeeding support and education are key parts of WIC because breastfed children have fewer infections and are less likely to develop chronic conditions like obesity and diabetes later in life.

¹Washington WIC Client Information Management System (CIMS), household income at or below 105% federal poverty level

²Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Washington State, Quarterly Report, 4th Quarter 2003

³"Mothers Survey, Ross Products Division, and Abbott Laboratories." © 2003 – Abbott Laboratories.